



GLEN CANYON - NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED WATER INTAKE SYSTEM FOR SALT RIVER PROJECT'S NAVAJO GENERATING STATION IN PAGE


PAGE, AZ Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA) Superintendent Kitty L. Roberts announced the release and public comment period for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed new Salt River Project (SRP) intake system for Navajo Generating Station (NGS) in Page, Arizona. The project has been developed through close coordination among the National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and SRP. This EA analyzes the environmental impacts associated with the installation of new water intakes on Lake Powell.

The purpose of the project is to ensure the future availability of cooling water for NGS operations due to the continuing decrease of the water surface elevation of Lake Powell associated with the ongoing drought in the Southwest. The full pool elevation of Lake Powell is 3,700 feet¹. Current projections indicate the lake surface elevation could fall below the existing NGS water intake elevation of 3,470 feet by the end of 2007. If severe drought conditions persist, these reduced lake levels could be reached as early as January 2007.

The proposed project will involve the installation of new water intake facilities on the grounds of the existing pump house facility, which is located adjacent to Lake Powell at an elevation of 3,734 on land leased to SRP by the Navajo Nation. The work will include the drilling of an 18-foot-diameter vertical shaft through sandstone bedrock adjacent to Lake Powell and up to three lateral microtunnels to connect the shaft with Lake Powell. New water intake pipes and submersible pumps will be installed in these 5-foot-diameter holes to withdraw lake water at an approximate elevation of 3,350 feet. The proposed water intake structures will not change the annual volume or the seasonal pattern of water withdrawals from those already being made by NGS. The new intake structures will require SRP to obtain a new easement within the boundary of the Glen Canyon NRA prior to construction. As a result, this EA has been developed for the National Park Service.

Limited copies of the document are available by writing to: Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, PO Box 1507, Page, AZ 86040. Copies are also available for review at the following public libraries: Page Public Library, Page, AZ; Coconino County Public Library, Flagstaff, AZ; San Juan County Library, Panguitch, UT; Tri-County Library, Bicknell, UT; and Kanab City Library, Kanab, UT. A copy of the EA will also be accessible via the worldwide web at www.nps.gov/glca/plan.htm on March 30, 2005.

¹ Elevations are referenced to mean sea level.



This notice is an opportunity for the public to identify any issues or concerns they may have regarding this project. All comments are due by April 29, 2005 and should be mailed to: Donald C. Smith, EcoPlan Associates, Inc., 701 W. Southern Avenue, Suite 203, Mesa, Arizona 85210 or email dsmith@ecoplanaz.com or fax to Mr. Smith at 480.733.6661.

Please note that names and addresses of people who comment become part of the public record. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations, businesses, and individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public inspection in their entirety.

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